



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending October 21, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent week for Field Work: While most people are enjoying the fair weather, many farmers are still hoping for rain. On Friday many farmers got their wish. Some areas received as much as an inch of rain at the end of the week. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included fall plowing, filling silos, hauling water, mowing pastures, repairing equipment, making hay, baling fodder, liming fields, chopping corn for silage, planting wheat and barley, and harvesting corn, soybeans, potatoes, tobacco, grapes, and apples.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 21, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
37	27	34	2

Crops: Ninety-three percent of the corn crop has reached maturity. This represents no change from the previous week. Corn harvest is now 48 percent complete. This is 1 point lower than this time last year and 4 points lower than the five-year average. Corn conditions show that 52 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty-seven percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Harvesting of soybeans is still ahead of schedule, as 47 percent of the crop is now harvested. This is 10 points higher than this time last year and 15 points higher than the 5-year average. Seventy-three percent of the wheat crop has been planted. This is 3 points below this time last year and 1 point above the 5-year average. Forty-eight percent of the planted wheat has now emerged. This is 7 points higher than this time last year and 3 points higher than the 5-year average. Eighty-three percent of the barley crop has been planted, this is 10 points lower than this time last year, and 8 points lower than the 5-year average. Fifty-eight percent of the planted barley has now emerged. This is 6 points behind this time last year and 12 points lower than the 5-year average. Ninety-nine percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 6 percentage points ahead of this time last year and 4 points higher than the 5-year average. Fifty-four percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 88 percent of the fourth cutting of alfalfa has been completed.

Eighty-seven percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 5 points behind this time last year, but 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. The grape harvest is definitely underway as 68 percent of the crop has been harvested. The weather conditions have been wonderful for a great grape harvest!

Livestock: This year the pastures are really suffering from the dry weather conditions across the state. Currently 9 percent of the pastures are in good or excellent condition. Pasture conditions were reported as

follows: very poor 32%, poor 30%, fair 29%, good 8%, and excellent 1%.

U.S. as of October 14, 2007: Cooler than average temperatures were evident along the Pacific Coast and into the Intermountain region, while rain accumulations were significant in northern California and the Pacific Northwest. The Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota were also cooler than average throughout the week, and heavy rain showers stretching from the eastern central Great Plains into the upper Midwest, delayed fieldwork. Elsewhere, warmer than average temperatures set records in the Midwest, South and East, early in the week, as the latter half of the week brought more seasonable temperatures, while rains in the Northeast provided drought relief.

Corn: Harvested acreage, at 53 percent, was ahead of last year and normal by 14 and 12 points, respectively. The crop was reaped well ahead of the normal pace by 20 or more points in the central Corn Belt. Elsewhere, harvest progress was ahead of normal between 1 and 12 points, except in Pennsylvania, where harvesting of the crop was behind by 5 points. Producers were near complete in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

Soybeans: Ninety-seven percent of soybean acreage was at or beyond the leaf-dropping stage, the same as last year, but 1 point ahead of normal. In Kansas, Missouri, and North Carolina, development of the crop was behind the normal pace between 1 and 4 points, while all other States were at or slightly ahead of normal. Development of acreage in Arkansas and North Carolina to the leaf-dropping stage was at 82 and 61 percent, respectively, while acreage in all other States had dropped-leaves across nearly all acreage. Sixty-six percent of acreage had been reaped, the same as last year and ahead of normal by 1 point. Harvest progress, when compared to the 5-year average pace, was delayed in the northern and central Great Plains, Iowa, and across the Great Lakes.

Winter Wheat: Producers planted 73 percent of the winter wheat acreage, 4 and 3 points behind last year and normal, respectively. When compared with the 5-year planting pace, planting delays were evident in the central and southern Great Plains, Arkansas, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, and Washington. Elsewhere, planting was significantly ahead of normal in the Ohio Valley, Oregon, and the central Corn Belt. Planting was near complete in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Washington. Emergence of the crop, at 43 percent, was behind last year and normal by 5 and 8 points, respectively. Emergence has not occurred in California and North Carolina. In the central and southern Great Plains, Delta, Southeast, Four Corners Region, Montana, and Washington, emergence was behind normal, while elsewhere development of the crop was at or ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 21, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 21, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	77	50	63	11	0.08	3	19.00	-6.22	65	3,138	535	5,007
Franklin	73	35	58	9	0.43	4	20.19	-6.72	80	2,868	484	4,746
Meadville	72	47	60	12	0.00	0	17.74	-9.39	76	2,926	744	4,793
Mercer	72	35	59	10	0.17	3	22.57	-3.02	75	2,836	475	4,710
Springboro	73	37	58	8	0.30	4	22.19	-2.14	91	2,536	-14	4,379
Warren	75	38	58	9	0.30	3	26.23	-1.01	79	2,630	329	4,486
North Central												
Bradford Region	71	37	54	10	0.68	3	22.96	-4.09	86	2,038	390	3,806
Emporium	74	36	57	11	0.71	4	26.07	-0.60	75	2,672	795	4,548
Kane	73	30	54	10	0.53	3	26.23	-1.44	76	2,046	438	3,824
Laporte	68	40	55	7	1.66	3	23.28	-1.76	81	2,403	50	4,215
Lock Haven	76	36	59	9	0.32	1	16.07	-8.48	58	3,164	659	5,055
Port Allegany	72	36	55	9	0.31	1	21.02	-4.74	71	2,253	428	4,060
Renovo	76	35	58	8	0.48	2	21.53	-3.02	65	3,010	505	4,892
Ridgway	74	34	56	9	0.42	2	21.45	-5.22	77	2,327	450	4,160
Stevenson Dam	76	37	58	12	0.42	3	18.21	-8.46	68	2,851	974	4,725
Towanda	75	39	56	7	1.03	1	18.93	-1.88	71	2,659	286	4,493
Wellsboro	70	37	54	8	0.43	2	23.62	2.65	79	2,220	452	4,020
Williamsport	76	39	60	10	0.76	1	17.74	-6.61	63	3,386	625	5,302
Northeast												
Hawley	76	38	55	8	1.14	1	27.37	3.79	70	2,453	430	4,289
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	41	60	10	1.26	1	24.78	1.87	60	3,113	495	5,001
Susquehanna	74	41	56	10	1.28	1	27.31	1.96	74	2,604	692	4,450
West Central												
Butler	74	35	58	9	0.56	4	20.70	-4.60	72	2,837	362	4,719
New Castle	77	36	60	11	0.36	3	19.71	-3.55	66	3,165	685	5,061
Slippery Rock	77	38	60	12	0.34	4	23.07	-1.73	73	3,031	811	4,924
Central												
Altoona/Blair	76	41	59	9	0.17	3	20.17	-2.11	72	2,985	353	4,866
DuBois	74	42	59	11	0.49	4	19.99	-5.46	86	2,756	495	4,618
Lewistown	78	38	60	8	0.54	2	21.76	-2.06	65	3,231	338	5,135
Middletown	80	45	63	10	0.54	2	23.69	-0.03	57	3,861	583	5,790
Prince Gallitzi	74	39	56	8	0.36	2	22.50	-6.00	65	2,494	381	4,342
Selinsgrove	77	36	59	9	1.65	2	17.21	-7.64	58	3,191	500	5,083
State College	75	45	60	10	0.24	3	18.27	-4.22	66	3,190	605	5,086
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	77	43	62	10	0.76	1	24.42	-1.36	69	3,433	444	5,341
Lehighton	75	36	58	6	0.78	2	29.87	4.06	75	2,977	98	4,866
Matamoras	76	41	58	7	1.05	1	28.08	2.10	68	2,730	144	4,603
Mt_Pocono	72	39	57	12	1.32	1	29.81	1.91	85	2,520	782	4,348
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	76	44	63	12	0.27	3	21.10	-2.42	71	3,526	870	5,439
Derry	78	36	60	10	0.32	2	31.04	6.62	66	2,973	469	4,853
Myersdale	74	29	54	5	0.26	3	20.76	-5.99	71	2,291	-180	4,104
Mount Pleasant	78	36	59	10	0.24	3	25.45	-2.46	70	2,868	633	4,754
Pittsburgh Intl	76	42	62	12	0.20	3	20.47	-1.49	64	3,403	622	5,309
Connellsville	78	37	61	10	0.13	2	25.88	0.00	79	3,357	520	5,268
Waynesburg	78	34	59	10	0.18	3	23.08	-0.81	72	3,059	491	4,957
South Central												
Biglerville	78	39	61	9	0.62	2	18.83	-3.81	57	3,542	338	5,464
Everett	75	36	56	6	0.32	3	20.73	-1.07	70	2,566	-62	4,437
Hanover	80	40	61	9	0.40	2	16.74	-5.90	55	3,486	282	5,399
Harrisburg_AP	80	44	63	10	0.50	1	18.42	-5.30	48	3,752	464	5,684
South Mountain	75	39	59	9	1.50	3	21.45	-0.83	62	2,819	196	4,697
York	82	38	63	10	0.49	1	20.88	-3.10	58	3,402	201	5,319
Southeast												
Green Lane	77	41	61	10	0.84	1	25.40	0.44	63	3,481	627	5,392
Hamburg	77	42	61	11	0.36	2	25.90	-3.06	71	3,530	945	5,447
West_Chester	79	34	60	7	1.26	1	27.92	0.67	60	3,389	200	5,294
Lancaster	78	42	62	10	0.28	2	23.81	-1.43	57	3,513	488	5,431
Neshaminy Falls	78	37	60	8	0.49	1	31.27	2.48	64	3,277	294	5,173
New Holland	77	43	62	10	0.18	1	25.34	0.10	60	3,627	602	5,539
Philadelphia	79	49	66	11	0.18	1	24.30	-0.07	53	4,168	662	6,110
Philadelphia NE	80	46	65	10	0.34	1	25.18	0.81	64	4,098	592	6,040
Reading	78	43	63	12	0.25	1	23.74	-3.07	66	3,688	726	5,610
Valley Forge Na	80	41	62	8	1.33	2	26.95	0.76	72	3,489	106	5,404
Willow Grove	77	44	64	12	0.55	1	25.27	-3.52	69	3,679	696	5,596

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had another dry week of weather. Temperatures last weekend ranged from 38 degrees to 65 degrees. This week's temperatures (Mon-Thurs) have been nighttime 50's and daytime temps up to 80 degrees. A slight shower was received here this morning (Friday) and until Saturday morning we received an inch of rainfall but dry conditions just had the soil absorb the rain and you couldn't even tell on Saturday that we had gotten an inch of rainfall.

Corn for grain is still being harvested in the county. Late corn is now drying down and going to make some corn if early frost doesn't come. Some corn is a little better than expected but still not great yields. Soybeans are still being harvested. Better yields than expected. Some later soybeans are still pretty green and frost could affect them also. Hay is being made in the county.

Apples are about 75 % harvest completed. Size is affected from drought but overall pretty good crop. Quality issues with sunburn, causing brown inside, mushy and some worms.

Pumpkins are also suffering from sunburn. Some in county look good and some not so good and all depends when the rainfalls came early June and what stage the pumpkins were in.

Wheat and Barley are still being seeded. Not sure what crops will turn out since the seeds have been sitting in soil awaiting some moisture to germinate them. Some are just starting to emerge that was planted a month ago.

Overall the county is dryer now than it was this summer. Rainfall is greatly needed.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Did get a bit of rain this week. But will only benefit fall seeded grain and grasses. Apple harvest is beginning to wind down. Most are getting a little larger crop than expected. Did not have any harvest help problems that I know.

Soybeans are coming off with a better yield than expected as well, but not quite average. May be a few more acres of wheat planted now that it has rained.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The county need rains, it is very dry. Harvesting corn for grain is just beginning. A few producers began harvesting soybeans, but discontinued because the leaves are a little too green. Haylage is still being harvested, which is very unusual for the county. What an unusual fall, I'm still picking a quart of strawberries from the garden every week and it's almost November.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Another dry week, fall field work continues. There was a total of 1/4" rainfall for the week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - We finally got a good rain- 2.5 inches

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Temperatures have been unusually high for this time of year making for excellent harvesting and planting conditions. Cover crops acres for silage corn is probably the highest in years. Pasture conditions are still average for October with a minimal amount of supplemental feed being fed.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many acres of shelled corn harvested. Corn for the most part is coming off with 15% moisture and with yields of 100 to 125 bushels per acres reported. We need rain. Some farmers' water wells are not making enough water for operations. Many farmers have been hauling water for livestock.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Good week for field work. A little rain came Friday, but not much. Soybean harvest is in full swing.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor - Had 1.1 inches of rain this past week. It is still very dry.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Rainfall in the range of one to two inches at the end of the week slowed the field activities. However, corn and soybean harvest were the main activities. The yields are poor in many areas as well as the quality of the grain. Hopefully the recent rain will be a help to the wheat and barley, as well as the alfalfa on the shaly knobs; where it has gone dead on the tops.

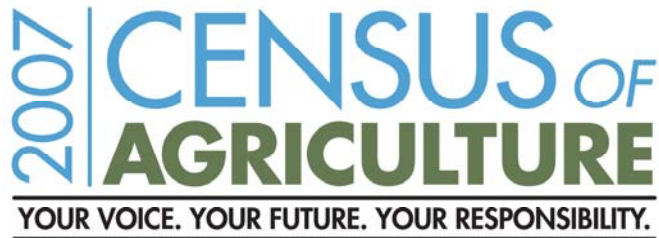
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - A few light showers provided some much-needed moisture for newly planted wheat and barley. Soybean and corn harvests are continuing with the peak of harvest activity still a few weeks away as many producers wait for the grain's moisture levels to drop. The generally dry weather is making for excellent harvest conditions. With high prices, much of the new crop is moving directly to market.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 21, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	70	67	67
Corn, mature	93	96	93
Corn, harvested	48	49	52
Barley, planted	83	93	91
Barley, emerged	58	64	70
Wheat, planted	73	76	74
Wheat, emerged	48	41	45
Soybeans, harvested	47	37	32
Potatoes, harvested	99	93	95
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	88	86	82
Apples, harvested	87	92	86
Grapes, harvested	68	61	76

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 21, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	17	12	19	34	18
Wheat	0	1	50	49	0
Soybeans	7	13	33	32	15
Quality of hay made	1	7	38	43	11
Pasture	32	30	29	8	1



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